

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 DPW-01 AID-20

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /150 W

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P R 021115Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6735

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

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CINCUSARPAC

DIA WASHDC

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CGFMFPAC

CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACHTAI
7/13 AF
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 8870

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT--JULY 2, 1974

GENERAL

1. FANK CONTINUED TO SCORE SIGNIFICANT SUCCESSES ALONG ROUTE 5 NORTH OF PHNOM PENH LAST WEEK AND FURTHER STRENGTHENED ITS POSITION AROUND KAMPOT. FOR ITS PART, THE KC KEPT UP HEAVY PRESSURE AGAINST KOMPONG SEILA ON ROUTE 4, TOOK AN IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT GARRISON WEST OF BATTAMBANG, AND FOUND A NEW AREA OF OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN THE SOUTHWEST MARITIME PROVINCE OF KOH KONG. THE INTENSITY OF COMMUNIST ROCKETING OF PHNOM PENH DECLINED SHARPLY. FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE WEEK THE CAPITAL ENJOYED RELATIVE POLITICAL CALM, AS WELL, WITH A LONG BORET STATEMENT ON GKR EFFORTS AGAINST ILLEGAL DEVIATION OF WAR RESOURCES BEING THE PRINCIPAL NEW DEVELOPMENT. THE ECONOMIC SCENE WAS LESS TRANQUIL, AS THE BLACK MARKET RATE FOR THE DOLLAR CONTINUED TO SOAR. KC LEADER KHIEU SAMPHAN, AFTER A SHORT VISIT TO THE LAO "LIBERATED ZONE", SEEMS FINALLY NOW TO BE ON HIS WAY BACK TO CAMBODIA.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET ISSUED A STATEMENT JUNE 29 REPORTING "ENCOURAGING RESULTS" IN KEY AREAS OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT NATIONAL RESOURCES AND CONFIDENTIAL

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FOREIGN AID ARE PROPERLY APPLIED TO THE WAR EFFORT. THE LOW-KEYED DECLARATION NOTED THAT AN IMPROVED PAYROLL SYSTEM HAS "ALMOST ENTIRELY ELIMINATED" "PHANTOM TROOPS." LONG BORET ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT PERSONS INVOLVED IN RECENT LARGE-SCALE TRAFFICKING IN AVIATION GASOLINE ARE BEING DETAINED, AND ADDED THAT NEW CONTROL MEASURES SHOULD END SUCH DIVERSIONS IN THE FUTURE. FINALLY, THE PM DESCRIBED MEASURES TO CONTROL AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE, INCLUDING

SPOT INSPECTIONS OF COMBAT UNITS AND THE RETURN OF EXCESS AMMUNITION STOCKS TO THE CENTRAL DEPOT. HE ALSO PLEDGED SEVERE PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE FOUND GUILTY OF THEFT OF MUNITIONS IN THE FUTURE.

3. AFTER A MONTH OF RENEWED OPERATIONS, THE LOCAL PRESS CAME UNDER THE INFORMATION MINISTRY'S DISPLEASURE. CITING ARTICLES DAMAGING TO INTERNAL SECURITY AND MILITARY MORALE, THE MINISTRY SUSPENDED THREE DAILIES FOR A MONTH, THE MAXIMUM SENTENCE IT CAN IMPOSE WITHOUT RECOURSE TO THE COURTS. COMMENT: BY KHMER STANDARDS, THE PRESS HAS OPERATED IN A RELATIVELY RESTRAINED FASHION SINCE ITS LATE-MAY RE-EMERGENCE. THE SUSPENSIONS REPRESENT A WARNING TO JOURNALISTS, HOWEVER, NOT TO STRAY TOO FAR FROM THE FOLD.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

4. KHMER REPUBLIC AMBASSADOR THOUTCH VUTTHI PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PRESIDENT BALAGUER ON JUNE 28. THE AMBASSADOR IS ACCREDITED TO SEVERAL OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, AS WELL.

GRUNK/FUNK

5. GRUNK/FUNK PROPAGANDA MEDIA CAUGHT UP WITH THE KHIEU SAMPHAN DELEGATION VISIT TO THE LAO "LIBERATED ZONE" (SEE LAST WEEK'S KHMER REPORT), SAYING THAT IT WAS "CROWNED WITH BRILLIANT SUCCESSES" AND MARKED A NEW PHASE IN LAO-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS. EACH SIDE PLEDGED FERVENT SUPPORT TO THE OTHER'S CAUSE, WITH THE LAO SIDE DEMANDING THAT THE U.S. "IMMEDIATELY AND TOTALLY" CEASE ITS "AGGRESSION" IN CAMBODIA SO THAT THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE CAN SETTLE THEIR OWN AFFAIRS THEMSELVES. THE VISIT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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DESCRIBED AS ENDING JUNE 8 WHEN THE DELEGATION BEGAN THE "RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY".

6. GRUNK FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHHAK CONTINUED HIS TRAVELS TO FRIENDLY AFRICAN NATIONS (SEE PREVIOUS KHMER REPORTS) DEPARTING ZAIRE ON JUNE 25 FOR THE CONGO, WHERE HE WAS RECEIVED BY CONGO PRESIDENT NGOUABI ON JUNE 26. IN A JOINT COMMUNIQUE, THE CONGOLESE CONDEMNED THE AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS OF "U.S. IMPERIALISM" AND AFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE CAMBODIAN POSITION OF "NO COMPROMISE OR RETREAT IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE TRAITORS..." ON JUNE 27 CHHAK LEFT THE CONGO FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

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RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 SR-02 ORM-03 EB-11

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P R 021115Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6736

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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CINCUSARPAC
DIA WASHDC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 8870

7. FUNK CENTRAL COMMITTEE POLITBURO MEMBER THIOUNN MUMM, INTERVIEWED IN BELGRADE BY A YUGOSLAV COMMUNIST PRESS ORGAN, PUT FORWARD A TOUGH LINE ON NEGOTIATIONS WHEN HE ASSERTED THAT "AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, NO PROSPECTS AT ALL EXIST FOR COMPROMISE WITH THE QUISLING REGIME IN PHNOM PENH." COMMENT: MUMM'S STATEMENT IS SIMILAR IN SUBSTANCE BUT CONSIDERABLE MORE UNEQUIVOCAL THAN OFFICIAL STATEMENTS MADE DURING KHIEU SAMPHAN'S RECENT DIPLOMATIC SAFARI OR SARIN CHHAK'S ONGOING TRIP (SEE ABOVE). END COMMENT.

ECONOMIC

8. ON JUNE 29, THE GKR AND THE EMBASSY SIGNED A REVISION TO THE AGREEMENT FOR "HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO WAR DISPLACED PERSONS" PROVIDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$471,400. THESE FUNDS WILL GO TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT. THIS NEW CONTRIBUTION BRING TOTAL DOLLAR REFUGEE-RZFRTED FUNDING TO \$3,904,000 (PLUS \$17,200,000 FROM LOCAL CURRENCY GENERATIONS AND CIP FINANCED IMPORTS).

9. THE FINAL FY 1975 DOLLAR PROGRAM OBLIGATIONS FOR CAMBODIA TOTAL \$95,171,000 BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS:
CIP, \$71,600,000; ESF, \$18,250,000; REFUGEES, \$3,904,000;
AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT, 1,417,000.
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10. A SECOND VESSEL OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED KOMPONG SOM-PHNOM PENH CHARTER RUN ARRIVED IN THE CAPITAL ON JUNE 29 BRINGING ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES AND FOODSTUFFS.

THREE TUGS AND 4 BARGES FOR A SIMILAR OPERATION ON THE TONLE SAP ALSO ARRIVED ON THE 29TH.

11. ON JUNE 30, PHNOM PENH RICE STOCKS AMOUNTED TO 59,344 METRIC TONS OR AN 87 DAY SUPPLY ON THE BASIS OF A REVISED DAILY DISTRIBUTION QUOTA OF 680 M/T. ACTUAL DAILY DISTRIBUTION FOR JUNE AVERAGED 685.9 M/T.

12. PRICES IN PHNOM PENH SHOWED MIXED CHANGES DURING THE WEEK ENDING JULY 1. DOMESTIC RICE WAS UNCHANGED; FRESH WATER FISH AND OCEAN FISH INCREASED BY ABOUT 25 0/0, WHILE DRIED FISH REMAINED UNCHANGED. MEAT AND POULTRY

PRICES WERE MIXED: PORK ROSE 10 0/0; DUCK AND BEEF REMAINED UNCHANGED; CHICKEN WAS UP FOUR PERCENT FOR THE SECOND WEEK IN A ROW. FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WERE MIXED, WITH MOST OF THE CHANGES RELATED TO SEASONAL FACTORS. LOCAL PRODUCTS WERE VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED. THE BLACK MARKET RATE FOR THE DOLLAR, HOWEVER, ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY FROM 900 TO 1,010 RIELS PER DOLLAR.

MILITARY

13. KHMER COMMUNIST FORCES CONTINUED TO SUFFER HEAVY LOSSES IN THE OUDONG-KOMPONG LUONG AREA ALONG ROUTE 5 NORTH OF PHNOM PENH. KC EFFORTS TO ISOLATE FRIENDLY FORCES AT KOMPONG LUONG WERE MET BY WELL-EXECUTED FANK COUNTERATTACKS ON JUNE 29-30 WHICH RESULTED IN OVER 100 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS KILLED AND SOME 100 WEAPONS SEIZED. DESPITE COMMUNIST PRESSURE, ROUTE 5 BETWEEN PHNOM PENH AND KOMPONG LUONG REMAINED UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL. AT LOVEK, KC ATTACKS INITIALLY FORCED FANK TROOPS TO PULL BACK FROM SEVERAL POSITIONS AROUND THE PERIMETER, BUT BY THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD MOST OF THE LOST GROUND HAD BEEN RETAKEN.

14. COMMUNIST UNITS WERE MORE SUCCESSFUL SOME 40 KILO-
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METERS WEST OF BATTAMBANG, HOWEVER, WHEN THEY BROUGHT DOWN THE ENCIRCLED GARRISON AT TAKEN ON JULY 1. THE 68 SOLDIERS, 178 ARMED VILLAGERS AND OVER 1,000 CIVILIANS AT TAKEN ARE PRESUMED NOW TO BE UNDER ENEMY CONTROL. IN ANOTHER INITIATIVE, KC FORCES OPENED A NEW AREA OF OPERATIONS BY LAUNCHING ATTACKS AGAINST GOVERNMENT OUTPOSTS IN MARITIME KOH KONG PROVINCE, NORTH OF THE PORT OF KOMPONG SOM. THESE ATTACKS SCORED INITIAL SUCCESSES AGAINST THE PROVINCE'S RUSTY TERRITORIAL FORCES, BUT FANK REINFORCEMENTS FROM KOMPONG SOM HAD BROUGHT RELATIVE CALM TO THE AREA BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

15. FANK RECAPTURED TUK SAP, FOR KILOMETERS EAST OF THE KAF REAM AIR BASE. FANK ALSO RETAINED THE INITIATIVE AT KAMPOT BY EXPANDING BOTH THE EASTERN AND WESTERN PERIMETER. ROUTE 4 BETWEEN KOMPONG SPEU AND DAS KANCHOR REMAINED UNDER GKR CONTROL. THE ENCIRCLED GARRISON AT KOMPONG SEILA, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO COME UNDER HEAVY COMMUNIST GROUND AND MORTAR ATTACKS. THE SITUATION AT KOMPONG SEILA REMAINS CRITICAL; FANK HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO EVACUATE SOME 200 SERIOUSLY WOUNDED PERSONNEL FROM THE GARRISON THERE.

16. IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA, ROCKET ATTACKS FELL OFF SHARPLY WITH ONLY FIVE 107MM ROCKETS FALLING NEAR THE CITY, RESULTING IN ONLY ONE PERSON WOUNDED. ROUTE 1 TO THE SOUTHEAST OF THE CPITAL WAS INTERDICTED ON JUNE 27 BUT FANK QUICKLY REOPENED IT AND INFLICTED SIGNIFICANT LOSSES ON THE ENEMY.

17. FANK EFFORTS TO DISLODGE COMMUNIST FORCES FROM POSITIONS ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG NEAR PEAM CHOR WERE STALLED AT THE END OF THE WEEK. NONETHELESS, A MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH ON JUNE 29-30 AFTER TAKING SEVERAL ATTACKS BY COMMUNIST SHORE GUNNERS. ONE RICE CARGO SHIP WAS BEACHED NEAR PEAM CHOR BUT DAMAGE TO THE CARGO IS NOT YET KNOWN.
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